

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06

OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-02 PRS-01 PA-01 OIC-02 /113 W

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R 161758Z APR 76

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PASS CEA, TREASURY, FRB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, OECD

SUBJECT: REVERSAL OF PROPOSED CANCELLATION OF
ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (EDRC) REVIEW
OF U.S.

REFS: A) OECD PARIS 8474, B) STATE 73641

1. ON APRIL 14 (DURING GREEK REVIEW) EDRC DISCUSSED
SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSED CANCELLATION OF EDRC REVIEW OF
U.S. (AND OF DENMARK). SECRETARIAT CITED ARGUMENTS
OUTLINED REF A. (SECRETARIAT HAD ORIGINALLY FLOATED
PROPOSAL AT APRIL 1 EDRC REVIEW OF FRG. AT THAT TIME
SOME DELS, ESPECIALLY FRG AND JAPAN, STATED THEIR
OBJECTIONS, ARGUED THAT DELS NEEDED TIME TO CONSIDER
ISSUE, AND SUGGESTED THAT EDRC TAKE UP QUESTION AT
APRIL 14 MEETING.) MOST EDRC MEMBERS (LED BY FRG DEL,
WHO HAD LOBBIED ACTIVELY AGAINST SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL)
STRONGLY REJECTED PROPOSED CANCELLATION, URGING POST-
PONEMENT INSTEAD. DELEGATES, MANY OF WHOM HAD APPARENT-
LY CONSULTED WITH THEIR CAPITALS ON THIS QUESTION,
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STRESSED POINT THAT CANCELLATION OF SCHEDULED REVIEWS

(ESPECIALLY OF IMPORTANT U.S. REVIEW) WOULD SET BAD PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE, AND THAT SECRETARIAT HAD NO AUTHORITY FROM COUNCIL TO CONSIDER EDRC WORK PROGRAM AS EXPENDABLE SWING ELEMENT WHICH COULD BE ADJUSTED TO MEET OTHER PRIORITY NEEDS (E.G., SUPPORT OF MCCracken GROUP).

2. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION, SECRETARIAT (ANDERSEN) REPORTED SOME DELEGATES HAD EVEN VOICED PRIVATELY SUSPICION OF COLLUSION BETWEEN U.S. AND SECRETARIAT TO SUPPRESS REVIEW OF U.S. BECAUSE OF NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. SECRETARIAT CATEGORICALLY DENIED SUCH COLLUSION AND U.S. DEL ADDED THAT WE RESENTED INFERENCE BY ANYONE THAT U.S. WOULD WANT REVIEW CANCELLED BECAUSE OF ELECTIONS. WE EXPLAINED THAT CANCELLATION HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT AND THAT U.S., ALTHOUGH REGRETTING THE CIRCUMSTANCES WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT CANCELLATION GIVEN PERSUASIVE CASE ADVANCED BY SECRETARIAT. WE ADDED THAT POSTPONEMENT OF U.S. REVIEW FROM USUAL DATE ADJACENT TO LATE SPRING EPC CREATED DIFFICULTIES FOR US, AND THAT IT WAS LIKELY THAT LEVEL OF U.S. REPRESENTATION WOULD SUFFER. SECRETARIAT ALSO NOTED THAT ITS RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS WOULD FORCE IT TO CONFINE U.S. REVIEW TO SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK AND TO FOREGO ANY SPECIAL ANALYSES.

3. IN LIGHT OF THE STRONG STAND BY EDRC MEMBERS, COMMITTEE AGREED THAT REVIEW OF U.S. SHOULD BE POSTPONED RATHER THAN CANCELLED, AND THAT NEW DATES SHOULD BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN U.S. AND SECRETARIAT. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. MISSION, SECRETARIAT SUGGESTED EITHER LATE JUNE (SHORTLY AFTER MINISTERIAL) OR EARLY JULY. ALTERNATIVES OF HOLDING REVIEW IN PERIOD BETWEEN JUNE 10 - 11 EPC AND JUNE 21 - 22 MINISTERIAL; IN LATE JULY OR IN AUTUMN DO NOT SEEM FEASIBLE. PERIOD BETWEEN EPC

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AND MINISTERIAL IS SIMPLY TOO CROWDED WITH OTHER COMMITMENTS; SECRETARIAT STAFF DISPERSES FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS AFTER JULY 15; AUTUMN DATE WOULD HAVE DISRUPTIVE IMPACT ON SCHEDULE OF OTHER EDRC REVIEWS NORMALLY HELD DURING THAT TIME, AND FACT THAT BUDGET AND CEA REPORT WOULD BE IN PREPARATORY STAGE WOULD RENDER AUTUMN TIME-FRAME UNDESIRABLE FROM U.S. STANDPOINT.

4. THUS, REASONABLE OPTIONS FOR SCHEDULING U.S. REVIEW APPEAR TO BE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) JUNE 24: ADVANTAGES ARE: (A) SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF U.S. DELEGATION TO U.S. REVIEW WOULD PRESUMABLY BE IN PARIS FOR MINISTERIAL AND COULD STAY; (B) DATE DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH CIEC JUNE "WINDOW"; (C) POSSIBILITY THAT APPROPRIATE SENIOR CANADIAN OFFICIAL (CANADA IS AN EXAMINING COUNTRY) WOULD BE IN PARIS FOR MINISTERIAL AND COULD STAY FOR REVIEW.

(B) EARLY JULY: MOST OF U.S. DELS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO MAKE SEPARATE TRIP TO PARIS FOR REVIEW. IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADDITION, CONFLICT WITH JULY CIEC WINDOW OR WITH CIEC OFFICIAL LEVEL MEETING IS LIKELY AND CANADIAN EXAMINER WOULD POSSIBLY BE LOWER LEVEL THAN IF REVIEW HELD IN JUNE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION VIEWS JUNE 24 AS THE LESS-ER OF TWO EVILS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY WASHINGTON REACTION TO ALTERNATIVE DATES PROPOSED PARA 3. TURNER

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